

MINUTES FOR THE BOARDS OF EXAMINERS FOR ALCOHOL, DRUG AND GAMBLING COUNSELORS

MEETING DATE: Friday, June 9, 2023

MEETING TIME: 9:00 a.m.

MEETING LOCATION: **Online via Zoom**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mary Lask – Board President, Denise Everett -Secretary/Treasurer, Milagros Severin-Ruiz, Paula Chung, Rory Reid, Lee Anne Malone

STAFF PRESENT: Agata Gawronski- Executive Director, Paula Hlade- Licensing Specialist, Colleen Platt- Legal Counsel

MEMBERS OF PUBLIC:

Michael Juckett, Micah Smith, Tenea Smith, Michele Berry, Stephanie Robinson; Alyson Mullen; Gail Anderson; Jaime Clemens; Roman Harper-Matthews; Roberta Miranda; Kevin Murphy; Tom Sutherland; Walter Saunders; Cobie West; Jackie Shott; Kim Garcia.

Item 1: Welcome, Call to Order.

Mary Lask called the meeting to order 9:03 a.m.

Item 2: Public comments

No public comment.

Colleen Platt explains extension of internship criteria for Board to approve extensions past 5 years allowed.

Item 11: Deborah Grinager -Review, Approval or Disapproval of Settlement Agreement. For Possible Action.

Colleen Platt gave the Board an update on the settlement agreement reached with the licensee, stating that based on the information available to the staff Ms. Grinager was offered suspension of her Supervisor license for the period of six months, she will be required to pay the cost associated with this case and will be required to appear before the Board to get reinstated after the suspension is complete, 24 hours of approved continues education hours. Kevin Murphy counsel for Deborah Grinager presented the Board with summary statement. Dr. Reid moves to accept settlement agreement; Milagros seconded it; motion passed unanimously.

Item 13: Maria Aladjova – Review and Approval or Disapproval of Settlement Agreement. -For Possible Action

Colleen Platt summarized the term of the agreement for the members stating that Ms. Aladjova Admits to the allegations of dual relationship with the client by providing them housing aid after their therapeutic relationship was terminated.

Dr. Reid moves, Denise Everett seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Item 6 Catherine Hamrock, - internship application for approval and request to extend her internship past the allowed 5 years- For Possible Action.

Catherine withdrew application.

Item 9: Charla Rush, certified problem gambling intern application and- request to extend her internship past the allowed 5 years- For Possible Action.

Withdrew application.

Item 7: Michael Juckett, -internship application for approval and request to extend his internship past the allowed 5 years- For Possible Action.

Mr. Juckett briefed the Board with his job history, asking the Board to “either be reinstated or start from the scratch “; Mary Lask asked how many hours he had accrued; he was unable to do so since it was many years ago; Paula Hlade stated that we had 0 hours recorded in the system; Mr. Juckett stated he was working as “ an applicant” at the Life Change Center. Dr. Reid reiterated that for clarification that the epidemic was an unforeseen circumstance preventing Mr. Juckett from perusing his career in counseling and completing his hours withing allowed time frame and he now could do so. Mr. Juckett agreed. Dr. Reid made motion to approve the extension; LeeAnn Malone seconded.

Paula Hlade stated that he would need to complete 4000 hours since his masters was in Business Administration and only his undergrad degree was in psychology.

Mary Lask stated that those circumstances were not enough to allow the extension, Gawronski agreed, saying that it would be starting over, since he was asking for 5 years of extension and that is completely against what the statues say ; Dr. Reid asked if there was something else we could do to aid this candidate;

Gawronski suggested creating a subcommittee to discuss the issues further on how to proceed with the extensions in the future, and to avoid at hoc rule making.

Mary Lask made a motion to deny the request for extension of the internship for Michael Juckett, Paula Chung seconded.

Motion passed unanimously.

Item 8: Micah Smith, Internship application and request to extend internship past the allowed 5 years- For Possible Action.

Mr. Smith stated that he had started his internship in 2018 in Las Vegas but was also working full time at the hotel as a bell man. He had stated that the internship was not paying bills and he had to quit the internship. He stated that he got rehired with the Empowerment Center post pandemic to finish his hours and got his domestic violence instructor, he was still unable to sustain himself and had to quit again. He was than offered the job in the filed and was keen to complete his required hours and is asking for extension,

Hlade stated that we only have 35 hours recorded with the Board. LeeAnn Malone asked if he had a plan. He stated that he had supervisor lined up and a job offer. Milagros asked when the last time was, he practiced as an intern; Smith stated it was in February of 2022. Hlade confirmed that there were no hours recorded from February to June 2022 when his internship was active, which means the last time he practiced was in 2018.

Milagros moves to decline application, Denise Everett seconds it.

Milagros yay, Paula, LeeAnn, Denise yay, Mary yay

Dr. Reid nay. Motion carried. Application for Micah Smith was denied.

Dr. Reid stated that he was disappointed in the decision as it appears that the only way for Mr. Smith to get license in the state of Nevada is to go out of state and get a reciprocity coming back here. Milagros stated that he had 5 years and multiple jobs but only 35 hours toward his internship; Milagros proposed to work on the mechanism to streamline the process of extending internships.

Item 12: Tenea Smith- Request to reinstate the license pursuant to Settlement Agreement. – For Possible Action.

Kevin Murphy, legal counsel for Tenea Smith presented a summary of the agreement; Tenea Smith spoke to the members and stated that she was taking full responsibility for her actions; she stated that the last year of suspension made her reflect on professional burn out and forced her to work on self-care.

She asked to be reinstated so she could move on with her life as the field of substance abuse is her passion and she wants to be able to continue working in this field.

Her supervisor license remains revoked until 2027.

Dr. Reid moves to approve request to reissue her license, Milagros seconds the motion; motion carried unanimously.

Item 4: Review and Discussion, including without limitation, implementation of SB 91 of the 2023 Legislative Session - Michele Berry/ Agata Gawronski- For possible action.

Michelle Berry from CASAT presented the outlines of the bill and informed the Board that CASAT is ready to offer the course to the LCADC's to take to become Certified Problem Gambling Supervisors.

She explained that it is a self- paced course that is currently available on demand; there is also clinical supervision piece build into the training as well. Colleen Platt clarified that the law comes to effect on July 1.

Item 5: Problem Gambling updates- Kim Garcia

Kim Garcia informed the Board about the approved 2.2M budget for this biennium and will be working closely with CASAT to increase workforce in problem gambling field.

Item 14: Stephanie Robinson- Request to reinstate expired license- For possible action.

Ms. Robinson addressed the Board, stating that she has been in the filed since the 90's and became an intern in 2008. She has been with the current agency since 2008; she said she became a supervisor in 2020.

She stated that she was made aware during recent SAPTA visit that her license was expired since 2021; she further stated that she was unaware of the requirement to renew since she became a supervisor. She was under the impression that Supervisor license waived the requirement to renew the regular license.

Colleen Platt read the regulations regarding reinstatement.

Hlade stated that it was her responsibility to verify her license and not renew the supervisor license that shouldn't have happened since one cannot exist without the other.

LeeAnn Malone stated that the Board sends emails with reminders 30 and 15 days prior to the expiration date.

Gawronski reiterated that it wasn't Board's responsibility to remind their licensing when they are due, but it is on the licensee to keep their certifications and licenses current so they can practice.

Paula Chung moves to reinstate CADC after completing criteria required, LeeAnn seconds. Motion carried unanimously. Supervisor license not reinstated currently.

Milagros moves to approve; Paula Chung seconds is. Motion carried.

Item 10: Natasha Yates, Internship application and request to extend her internship past the allowed 5 years- For Possible Action.

Not in attendance, item tabled.

Item 15: Discussion and direction to legal staff to defend the Board in Case Number A-23-871018-C Heyward Jackson, Jr. v. Nevada State Board of Examiners for Alcohol, Drug and Gambling Counselors. For Possible Action.

Colleen Platt asked the members for the formal permission to represent the Board in court in the potential law suit.

Milagros makes motion to approve Colleen's representation; LeeAnn seconds. Motion carries unanimously.

Item 16: Executive Director's report – request to implement 12% raise for FY 2024 and a 4% raise in subsequent FY for the Executive Director and Licensing Specialist in accordance with AB 522 of the 2023 Legislative Session - For possible action.

Gawronski presented the summary of the bill to the members, explaining that the Board has sufficient funds to support the raise for the stuff; it will be possible to correct the deficit by raising the fees in the future.

Mary Lask made motion to implement the AB522, which is 12% salary increase for the director and licensing specialist.

Milagros seconds it, motion carried unanimously.

Item 17: Public Comments.

Colleen Platt mentioned Bill that recently passed -SB341 Creates office of Boards of Commissions within Business and Industry – unclear what that will mean for this Board

Milagros would like to continue the conversation regarding intern expirations as subcommittee.

August 25th next Board meeting.

Item 18: Adjournment.

Adjourn 11:08